

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently amended) An implant for securing a suture relative to a body tissue in a patient's body, comprising

a ~~body shaft~~ portion movable through an opening in body tissue, defining a longitudinal central axis and including

a first end, ~~and~~

a second end, ~~the second end~~ including a pointed end portion operative to pierce body tissue through which said shaft is moved [[; and]],

~~a plurality of passages each~~ first passage extending through the ~~body shaft~~ portion ~~orthogonal transverse~~ to the longitudinal central axis which ~~allow~~ allows for the threading of suture, said first passage located in close abutting proximity to said second end, whereby a suture threaded through said first passage may be pulled to thereby rotate the implant and move said second end in the pulling direction, said abutting location providing improved rotational leverage as compared to a location more distal to said second end, and

a second passage extending through the shaft portion transverse to the longitudinal central axis which allows for the threading of a suture, wherein a first passage is formed proximate said second end and a second passage is formed in the body shaft portion further from said second end than said first passage; and

~~wherein a suture threaded through said first and second passages is operative to rotate said anchor when said suture is tensioned.~~

2. (Currently amended) The implant according to claim 1, wherein the ~~body shaft~~ portion is substantially cylindrical.

3. (Previously presented) The implant according to claim 1, wherein the pointed end portion is conical in shape.

4-7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously presented) The implant according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of passages are substantially parallel.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently amended) The implant according to claim [[9]] 29, wherein the first passage and the second passage are substantially parallel.

11. (Currently amended) The implant according to claim [[9]] 29, wherein the pointed end portion forms an opening in the body tissue in the patient's body when a force is applied against a trailing end of the cylindrical body in a direction extending along the longitudinal central axis of the cylindrical body.

12. (Currently amended) The implant according to claim [[9]] 29, wherein the cylindrical body is made of bone.

13. (Previously presented) The implant according to claim 12, wherein the bone is allogenic bone.

14. (Previously presented) The implant according to claim 12, wherein the bone is autogenic bone.

15. (Previously presented) The implant according to claim 12, wherein the bone is xenogenic bone.

16. (Previously presented) The implant according to claim 12, wherein the bone is cortical bone.

17. (Currently amended) The implant according to claim [[9]] 29, wherein the cylindrical body is formed of a single piece of freeze dried bone.

18. (Currently amended) The implant according to claim [[9]] 29, wherein the cylindrical body is made of a material selected from the group consisting of a metal, a metal alloy, biodegradable material, and bioerodible material.

19. (Currently amended) The implant according to claim [[9]] 29, wherein the body tissue is soft tissue.

20. (Currently amended) The implant according to claim [[9]] 29, wherein the body tissue is bone.

21. (Currently amended) An implant for securing a suture relative to a body tissue in a patient's body, comprising  
a ~~cylindrical~~ body defining a longitudinal central axis and including a substantially conical end ~~operative to pierce body tissue~~ portion having a central axis which is coincident with the longitudinal central axis of the ~~cylindrical~~ body, wherein the ~~cylindrical~~ body is made of bone;  
a first passage, proximate said conical end portion, extending through the ~~cylindrical~~ body in a direction transverse to the longitudinal central axis of the ~~cylindrical~~ body; and  
a second passage extending through the ~~cylindrical~~ body substantially parallel to the first passage, disposed further from said conical end portion than said first passage, wherein the conical end portion forms an opening in the body tissue in the patient's body when a force is applied against a trailing end of the ~~cylindrical~~ body in a direction extending along the longitudinal central axis of the ~~cylindrical~~ body; and  
wherein said first passage is formed to extend partially through the ~~cylindrical~~ body and partially through the pointed end portion such that a suture section threaded through said first passage is operative to initiate rotation of said implant when said suture section is tensioned.

22-23. (Cancelled)

24. (Currently amended) An implant assembly for securing a suture relative to a body tissue in a patient's body, comprising:

a cylindrical body defining a longitudinal central axis and a pointed end portion operative to pierce body tissue having a central axis which is coincident with the longitudinal central axis of the cylindrical body;

a first passage formed proximate said pointed end extending through the cylindrical body in a direction transverse to the longitudinal central axis of the cylindrical body;

a second passage extending through the cylindrical body in a direction transverse to the longitudinal central axis of the cylindrical body;

a suture connected to the cylindrical body under tension and extending through the first and second passages; and

a retainer having a first configuration in which the retainer is freely slidable along the suture and a second configuration in which the retainer is secured and connected to the suture for maintaining the tension in the suture.

25. (Previously presented) The assembly according to claim 24, wherein the retainer is made of a material that becomes flowable when ultrasonic vibratory energy is applied.

26. (Previously presented) The implant of claim 21, wherein the conical end portion forms an opening in bone in the patient's body.

27. (Previously presented) The implant of claim 1, wherein said first passage is formed to extend partially through the cylindrical body and partially through the pointed end portion.

28. (Previously presented) The implant of claim 24, wherein a force distribution member is disposed between the retainer and the body tissue.

29. (New) An implant for securing a suture relative to a body tissue in a patient's body, comprising

a shaft portion movable through an opening in body tissue, defining a longitudinal central axis and including

a first end,

a second end including a pointed end portion operative to pierce body tissue through which said shaft is moved,

a first passage extending through the shaft portion orthogonal to the longitudinal central axis which allows for the threading of suture, said first passage located in close abutting proximity to said second end, whereby a suture, threaded through said first passage prior to piercing said body tissue, may be pulled in a direction away from said implant, to thereby rotate the implant and move said second end in the pulling direction, said abutting location providing improved rotational leverage as compared to a location more distal to said second end, and promoting movement of said first end in a direction away from the opening in body tissue, and

a second passage extending through the shaft portion orthogonal to the longitudinal central axis which allows for the threading of a suture, formed in the shaft portion further from said second end than said first passage.